

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119656

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-THAI MILITARY EXERCISES/CONFERENCES

1. AS YOU KNOW, CERTAIN TYPES OF OVERSEAS MILITARY EXERCISES AND CONFERENCES CAN BE AUTHORIZED BY DOD WITHOUT STATE DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE. THE RECENT LOP BURI CONFERENCE AND THE SEAL TEAM AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING EXERCISE ARE TWO EXAMPLES.

2. WE HAVE TOLD THE THAI THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO SACRIFICE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR OLD FRIENDS TO OUR EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE. HOWEVER, WHILE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SRV ARE IN TRAIN WE BELIEVE OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THAI SHOULD TAKE A LOW PROFILE. WE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAY 19
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REUTERS DISPATCH QUOTING SEATO'S SUNTHORN AS SAYING, "THE THAI SUPREME COMMAND IS CONSIDERING HOSTING A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE MEETING SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH USED TO BE HELD UNDER SEATO AUSPICES".

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOLING THE THAI DOWN ON THIS AND OTHER EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF

THE U.S.-THAI RELATIONSHIP. VANCE

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